

Maryland Numismatist



The Latvian Maiden



***Dues are due! Renewal form page 21.
Spring Whitman Expo***

Spring, 2022 Volume 50 – No. 1

**The
Maryland
State
Numismatic
Association,
Inc.**



The *MARYLAND NUMISMATIST* is published three times annually by MSNA and is distributed to all members in good standing without additional cost.

<http://mdstatenumisassn.org>

EDITOR

Simcha Kuritzky
Post Office Box 13504
Silver Spring, MD 20911-3504

Simcha.Kuritzky@cgi.com

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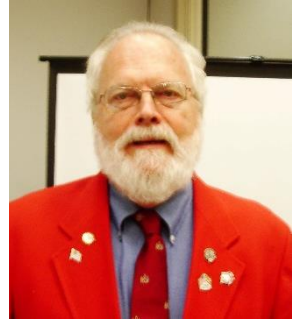
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President's Message



I'm back !!! Yes, I am now your President once more. This is both good news and bad news. On the good side, I get to provide support to a great organization, the Maryland State Numismatic Association (MSNA) once again. On the negative side, we are not getting any new volunteers to help MSNA maintain and grow its quality hobby support and educational goals. That said, it is good to be back in a position to help OUR organization. Please consider volunteering to help MSNA in the near future. Sell some raffle tickets, write an article for the Numismatist, or get another hobbyist to join our ranks.

Most of you probably know that local, Maryland Coin Dealer, Carl Ostiguy has been a big sponsor of the Maryland State Numismatic Association. We thank Carl for that. It has just come to my attention that Carl had some serious health issues recently but is on his way to a good recovery as many of you saw in person at the November Whitman Coin Show. Please keep Carl in your thoughts and prayers and stop by his table at an upcoming show and say hello and wish him well.

The pandemic threw MSNA a curve ball with regard to our annual raffle. We had to combine the last two annual raffles because we did not have the capability to sell our tickets at the three yearly Whitman Coin Shows. We are soon starting a new year and will begin selling tickets for our next annual raffle. Whether you are an individual or a club, please support our annual raffle as this is now our only form of income other than member dues. I want to thank all the volunteers from the Baltimore Coin Club who sold our raffle tickets at the registration desk at the November Whitman Show. They did a super job and it is much appreciated.

News from the American Numismatic Association:

Starting with the National Money Show in 2022, the Exhibit Committee will incentivize exhibitors, judges, and show attendees. For the NMS, gold and silver American eagles will be presented along with class prizes and best of show. Attendees will be given a raffle ticket for silver eagles if they visit the collectors' exhibit section to vote for people's choice.

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I have handled, developed and sold many of the finest rare coin collections in the country including:

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- Sale of the Wilkison Gold Pattern Collection in 1973
- Participation as a bourse dealer at hundreds of local, regional and national coin shows and conventions
- Attendance at every major U.S. auction held since 1968, representing as many as 25 bidders at the same time
- Consultation to corporations, dealers, and collectors in order to develop, build and expand collections as well as being instrumental in the promotion of the numismatic hobby
- Recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Professional Numismatists Guild

What Can I Do For You?

With total confidentiality, I will tailor my services to fit your needs, and:

- Assist in the formation (or location) of any U.S. coin or currency collection
- Counsel collectors, dealers and corporations on any aspect of the numismatic business or hobby
- Act as personal representative for any numismatic transaction at a maximum commission of 10%
- Appraise collections or individual pieces on an hourly basis
- Assist in the orderly disposition of holdings at current values



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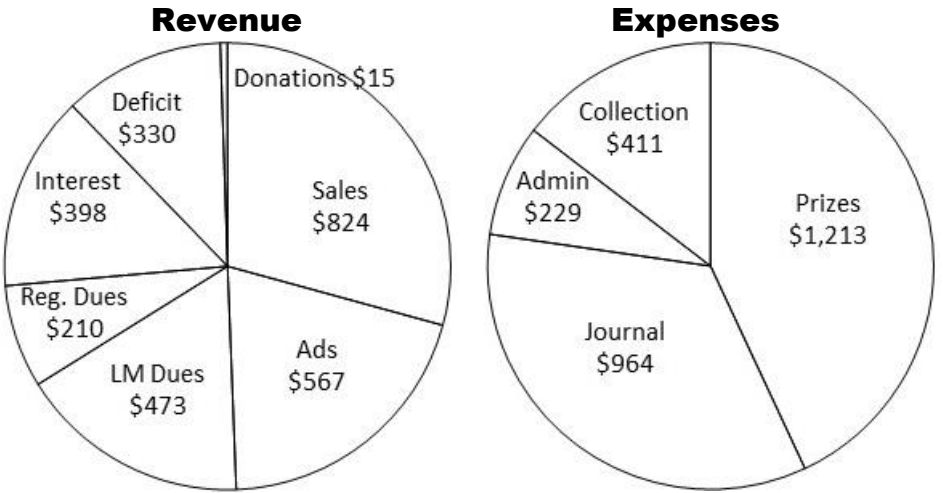
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P·N·G



Treasury Notes by Simcha Kuritzky, Treasurer and Editor

Below are two pie charts that show our results for fiscal year 2021 (ended November 30). Each circle represents the same number of dollars; because we had more expense than revenue, the difference is shown as a deficit near the top left of the revenue pie chart.



The largest impact of using accrual versus cash basis of accounting is on life memberships—revenues earned for life membership are from payments received years ago, so regular dues and life membership dues are shown separately. We merged the 2020 and 2021 raffles so the sales include both years’ raffle sales. Even so, we didn’t cover the cost of the raffle prizes. We actually would have had a small surplus if we could have canceled the raffle. Advertising includes both in the journal and on the raffle tickets. Administrative expenses include post office box rentals and membership dues in other organizations. Expenses associated with the John Henry collection include the safe deposit box rental and insurance.

Due to the pandemic, I let a lot of the membership dues slide, but I will send out reminder postcards in March to try and bring membership back up for 2022. Please save me the trouble of contacting you by renewing before then. You can also pay by PayPal, sending the dues amount to MontgomeryCoin@gmail.com. We have so little traffic, PayPal will let you send as friends and family for no fee, but if you use a credit card, please pay the service fee.

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Membership Report

The MSNA by-laws require the treasurer to prepare an annual report on the membership. I am also giving the report for all years back to 2015.

MSNA has six types of membership. Regular, club and junior members must pay each year. Life, club life, and honorary life members are inducted once and stay members until they pass away, the club is dissolved, or they resign. Honorary life members become life members immediately, while regular and club life members must be a member in good standing the three years previous. So the only changes to life membership are new members and deceased members (which includes those who resign or who can no longer be reached by mail), while regular members can join, renew (which can be paid in advance or arrears), lapse, or return after a lapse of at least one year.

Our regular membership fell precipitously in 2019, and continued to decline in 2020 and 2021. I am planning to issue more renewal reminders this year.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Regular							
New	1	1	4	5	2	1	1
Renewed	37	31	30	32	23	18	17
Returned	1	4	4	3	0	3	1
Convert to life mem.	-3		-3			-1	-1
Lapsed	-5	-8	-3	-6	-17	-6	-4
Total	39	36	38	40	25	22	19

Note: Total = New + Renewed + Returned = Previous
Total + New + Returned – Convert to LM – Lapsed

Life							
Begin	70	71	69	69	65	64	63
New	3		3			1	1
Deceased	-2	-2	-3	-4	-1	-2	
End	71	69	69	65	64	63	64
Combined	110	105	107	105	89	85	83

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The Latvian Maiden: from Classic to Modern Design

By Mark Benvenuto, MSNA #R-825

When it comes to big silver coins, pieces that are generally called crowns, there are plenty which are considered common. The British crown is one excellent example, although the Prussian and Bavarian five mark coins from before the First World War are also fairly common and easy to find. One piece that tends to get lost in the shuffle is the five lati coins of Latvia. Often called the Latvian Maiden, this big silver coin can be a fun one to collect – and now has several modern siblings that can also be considered part of any collection.

The five lati Latvian Maiden has its origin in a brief time that was wonderful for the citizens of Latvia – that time between the end of the First World War and the beginning of the Second. Latvia has a long history, but unfortunately, little of it involved the land being a free nation. Back over a thousand years, peoples who would eventually be known as the Latvians established themselves in the region, but as nation-states began to evolve in Europe, they found themselves under the rule of German aristocrats, as well as Sweden for a time, and Poland, and eventually Czarist Russia. When the Russian government imploded during the Russian Revolution which took the big nation out of the First World War, Latvia was able to fight for and gain its independence, as were two of its neighboring nations, Estonia and Lithuania. Freedom, after so much time as a part of someone else's empire, must have been a heady feeling. One manifestation of it was the production of a national Latvian coinage, including the big five lati piece with its allegorical symbol of freedom, the Latvian Maiden (see photo on cover).

These hefty, silver, crown-sized coins were minted in 1929, then again in 1931, and a third time in 1932. Their silver percentage is lower than many contemporary silver pieces of Europe – 83.5%, for a total of 0.67 ounces of silver in each. But the beauty of the design is such that collectors who put together assemblies of European crowns almost always include at least one in their collections.

The prices for a Latvian Maiden or two are all over the board. There are values listed in references such as the Krause catalog; and there are a wide variety of prices asked at internet sources such as eBay. Prices as low as \$35 are not uncommon, especially for examples that show a bit of wear.

Examples in mint state can cost considerably more, but, despite there being several good third-party grading services out there which encapsulate world coins, not many of these classic crowns seem to have been put into sonically sealed slabs. These three dates constitute an entire set of classic Latvian five lati silver crowns. During the Second World War, after considerable bloodshed, Latvia bounced between the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany, winding up a piece in the greater puzzle of the Soviet territories as the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic. It started its transition to an independent republic in May, 1990, which was finally achieved in September, 1991.



In an interesting twist, an independent Latvia brought back their symbol of freedom on a 1992 banknote with the value of 500 Latu. The maiden now faces in the opposite direction from her classic pose, but she still wears the traditional hat, has her hair braided the same, and even sports the same wheat ears over her shoulder. People with an interest in the image and the classic coins may wish to add this to any collection they choose to build.

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In what probably qualifies as a second interesting twist, the Bank of Latvia in 2012 remade the five lati Maiden to mark their 90th anniversary, this time as a silver crown just like the classic with only the date changed. The coins appear to have been well received by collectors worldwide. These are also available on-line and from dealers, and are not particularly expensive. Back in 2003, the design had been used on a 14mm 1.25 gram gold coin, one that was actually produced by a private Swiss firm. The gold piece is somewhat harder to find, but a patient collector will most likely be rewarded.



As if these two were not enough by way of twists related to the image, Latvia joined the European Union in 2004. A referendum was held in late 2003, with a healthy majority of Latvians wanting to join the E.U. and be part of the greater European community. One aspect of membership is the right to strike coins with an E.U. side and a national side. Latvia got around to it, and used the maiden on their one and two euro coins starting in 2014.

The Latvian Maiden appears to evoke the same pride in Latvian citizens as a variety of Lady Liberty images have in citizens of the U.S. What started as a coin set that encompassed only three years has become a much larger grouping of precious metal and base metal coins, as well as a modern banknote. An interested collector might find that he or she can have a lot of fun putting together such a collection, and can learn some fascinating history in the process.

Local News

Clubs are starting to meet in person again, though some hold hybrid in-person and on-line meetings.

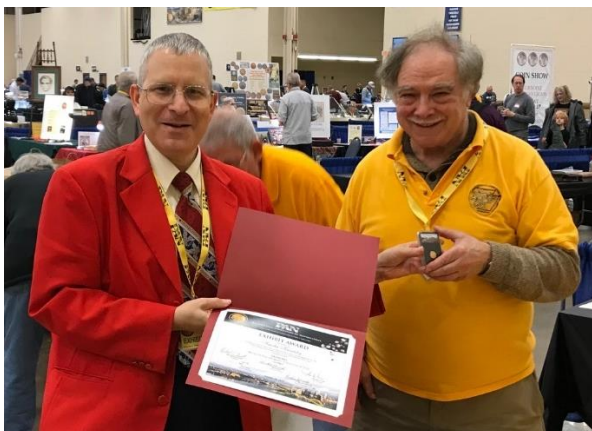
In December, the **Montgomery County Coin Club** raised over \$1400 in their annual charity auction for the Manna Food Bank in Gaithersburg, and kicked in the difference to bring the donation up to \$2000. At the November live meeting, members described their favorite coin. The January meeting was virtual again due to Montgomery County closing their senior centers and was mostly a business meeting. In February, they met in a local church and President **Jack Schadeegg** spoke on metal detecting and showed various old coins and jewelry he had found in 2021.

President **Simcha Kuritzky** ran a game of Coin Chronology at the November hybrid meeting of the **Washington Numismatic Society**. Both this meeting and the December annual pot-luck holiday party took place in the offices of one of the members near downtown DC. At the January hybrid meeting, Simcha spoke on Henrietta Szold, the Baltimore native who founded the Women's Zionist Organization Hadassah, handing out various items to show those in person and sharing photos of them for those attending on line. The February meeting was the first back at the church they had been meeting in for a couple of decades. They viewed two short videos on Russian coins and banknotes.

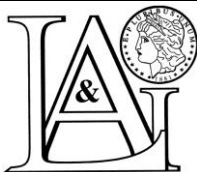
Coin Club Meeting Calendar (most months)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
First				Baltimore
Second	Cambridge, Colonial	Montgomery, West Maryland	Belmar, MR, Catonsville	
Third	Colonial (sometimes), Bel Mar	Washington Numis. Soc., Bowie		Baltimore
Fourth	Carroll County		Middle River (MR)	

PAN Show Results



MSNA Editor and Treasurer Simcha Kuritzky's exhibit on Medals of Puja (Hindu worship) won first place in Tokens and Medals at the Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists (PAN) show, held at the end of October. This same exhibit won first place at the MSNA exhibit at the Spring, 2019 Whitman show, and third-place Best of Show at the 2018 ANA National Money Show outside of Dallas, Texas.



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What's Your Sign?

Part Fifty: Portuguese Berardo Medals
by Simcha Kuritzky, NLG

I bought this set of 45mm pewter zodiac medals on eBay from a dealer in Portugal, so I think they were minted there. Also, the edge is stamped ESTANHO, which is Portuguese for tin, the main ingredient in pewter.





This set is interesting because the Latin names are all in cursive capital letters, though that makes them a bit hard to read. The reverses are plain with a very large central sigil and the beginning and end dates for the sign in DD-MM format. These medals weigh between 35 and 38 grams. These high-relief medals show lines and curves over the standard figures, and are signed by Vasco Berardo (1933-2017), a painter and sculptor from Coimbra, Portugal.



There is also a bronze version of these medals on the 45mm planchet and also on a 57mm planchet, though the design still fits in the original 45mm. I own only the example shown above, which weighs 65 grams. The dates on these medals are shown in the following table. The script font is close to the one on the medal, but not all the same.

Zodiac Sign		Dates
♈	ARIES	Mar. 21 – Apr. 20
♉	TAURUS	Apr. 21 – May 20
♊	GEMINI	May 21 – June 21
♋	CANCER	June 22 – July 22
♌	LEO	July 23 – Aug. 22
♍	VIRGO	Aug. 23 – Sept. 22
♎	LIBRA	Sept. 23 – Oct. 22
♏	SCORPIO	Oct. 23 – Nov. 21
♐	SAGITTARIUS	Nov. 22 – Dec. 20
♑	CAPRICORN	Dec. 21 – Jan. 19
♒	AQUARIUS	Jan. 20 – Feb. 18
♓	PISCES	Feb. 19 – Mar. 20

Berardo also designed a series of 80x90mm rounded rectangle medals for the zodiac with different designs. These have the dates and sign names all in Portuguese. Also both the dates and sigils are not the same as those above. These medals weigh 269 grams. The medals are numbered for a series of 250. The reverses have 24 stars.



Zodiac Sign		Dates
♈	Carneiro	Mar. 21 – Apr. 20
♉	Touro	Apr. 21 – May 20
♊	Gêmeos	May 21 – June 20
♋	Caranguejo	June 21 – July 20
♌	Leao	July 21 – Aug. 21
♍	Virgem	Aug. 22 – Sept. 22

♎	Balanca	Sept. 23 – Oct. 22
♏	Escorpiao	Oct. 23 – Nov. 22
♐	Sagitario	Nov. 23 – Dec. 20
♑	Capricornio	Dec. 21 – Jan. 19
♒	Aquario	Jan. 20 – Feb. 18
♓	Peixes	Feb. 19 – Mar. 20



Bromo-Seltzer 1895 Calendar Medal



Many visitors to Baltimore recognize the distinctive Bromo-Seltzer tower. This medal was minted in Birmingham, England as a pocket calendar to advertise Emerson's headache cure. The tower was built later, in 1907-11 and was the tallest building in Baltimore until 1923.

Photo ID and Registration at Show required



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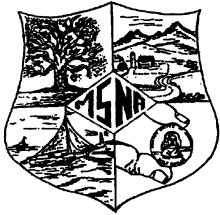
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Membership Application/Renewal

Date: _____ MSNA #: _____ (for renewal)

I hereby apply for membership/renewal in the Maryland State Numismatic Association, Inc., subject to its constitution & by-laws. (Please Print)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

E-Mail: _____

☐ Tax-deductible donation to MSNA \$ _____

If ANA member, please give us the ANA Number _____

The items below are only requested for original membership application:

Numismatic specialties: _____

Other Numismatic Affiliations: _____

Signature: _____

Sponsor No. 1: _____

Sponsor No. 2: _____

For junior membership please include:

Guardian Signature: _____ Birth Year: _____

Fee of \$15 (club), \$10 (individual) or \$2 (under 18) must accompany this form for calendar year dues (\$5 individual after August 1). Life member upgrades are: \$300 for clubs, \$200 (age 50 & under), \$125 (51-65), \$75 (66 & over). You must be a regular member for 3 years before attaining life membership. Pay by check or money order.

Maryland Coin Show Dates

All shows have free admission. Only the Whitman show does not have free parking. All shows are subject to cancellation due to the pandemic; check before going.

6 Mar. – Annapolis Coin and Currency Show, Elks Lodge #622, 2 Pythian Drive, Edgewater, MD; 9-4.

31 Mar.-2 Apr. – Whitman Baltimore Spring Expo, Baltimore Convention Center, 1 West Pratt Street; Thu 2-6, Fri-Sat 10-6, Sun. 10-3.

23-24 Apr. – Frederick Coin and Currency Show, Elk Lodge #684, 289 Willowdale Drive, Frederick, MD; 9-4:30.

15 May – Annapolis Coin and Currency Show, Elks Lodge #622, 2 Pythian Drive, Edgewater, MD; 9-4.

9-11 June – Whitman Baltimore Coin & Currency Convention, Baltimore Convention Center, 1 West Pratt Street; Thu 2-6, Fri-Sat 10-6, Sun. 10-3.

25-26 June – Frederick Coin and Currency Show, Elk Lodge #684, 289 Willowdale Drive, Frederick, MD; 9-4:30.

11 Sept. – Annapolis Coin and Currency Show, Elks Lodge #622, 2 Pythian Drive, Edgewater, MD; 9-4.

22-23 Oct. – Frederick Coin and Currency Show, Elk Lodge #684, 289 Willowdale Drive, Frederick, MD; 9-4:30.

27-29 Oct. – Whitman Baltimore Coin & Currency Convention, Baltimore Convention Center, 1 West Pratt Street; Thu 2-6, Fri-Sat 10-6, Sun. 10-3. MSNA hopes to hold our exhibit competition at this show.

27 Nov. – Annapolis Coin and Currency Show, Elks Lodge #622, 2 Pythian Drive, Edgewater, MD; 9-4.

3-4 Dec. – Frederick Coin and Currency Show, Elk Lodge #684, 289 Willowdale Drive, Frederick, MD; 9-4:30.

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1/4 Page @	\$10.00	\$18.00	\$27.00
1/8 Page @	\$ 6.00	\$10.00	\$15.00

Issue Dates and Approximate Deadlines for 2021:

	Spring	Summer	Autumn
Content due:	February 1	May 15	September 15
In Mail:	February 15	June 1	October 1

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